

IRISH MODEL SCHOOLS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 18 May 1876;—*for*,

COPIES "of all CORRESPONDENCE between the Treasury and the National Education Commissioners of *Ireland*, in the Years 1874, 1875, and 1876, relative to the Increase of the FEES payable by PUPILS in the IRISH MODEL SCHOOLS, together with the MINUTES and RESOLUTIONS of the EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS thereon: "

"And, of all MEMORIALS and other COMMUNICATIONS addressed to the Commissioners, the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, or Her Majesty's Government, by the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church, and any other Public Bodies."

Office of National Education, Ireland, }
28 June 1876.

JAMES KELLY, }
WM. HOMAN NEWELL, } Secretaries.

(*Mr. Charles Lewis.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
27 July 1876.

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COPIES of all CORRESPONDENCE between the Treasury and the National Education Commissioners of Ireland, in the Years 1874, 1875, and 1876, relative to the Increase of the FEES payable by PUPILS in the IRISH MODEL SCHOOLS, together with the MINUTES and RESOLUTIONS of the EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS thereon; and, of all MEMORIALS and other COMMUNICATIONS addressed to the Commissioners, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, or Her Majesty's Government, by the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church, and any other Public Bodies.

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT from REPORT of Departmental Committee of Inquiry
(January 1874, pp. 22, 23).

V. MODEL SCHOOLS.

OUR attention has been drawn to this branch of the administration of the Commissioners of National Education, by a recommendation made by them for certain increase of salaries and allowances to some of the staff, amounting to 968 *l.*, for the years 1874-75, which the Treasury have referred to us.

These schools, of which there are at present 27, viz., 19 district, seven minor model schools, and the metropolitan model schools, have all been built at the cost of the State.

The annual cost of their maintenance is as follows:—

From Public Votes, viz.:—				£.	£.
Education Vote	-	-	-	32,339	
Board of Works, about	-	-	-	5,000	
				37,339	
Less school fees paid to the Exchequer as					
an extra receipt	-	-	-	1,000	
					36,339
School fees paid to Teachers, about	-	-	-		4,000
				£	40,339

As the State contributes so large a portion of the total cost as compared with that derived from school fees, we were led to inquire whether the fees might not, with advantage, be raised. A careful analysis of the occupation of the parents whose children attend these schools, has satisfied us that not more than one-third of these children are drawn from the poor classes, and that the other two-thirds come about equally from the well-paid working, and from the middle and higher classes.

The fees now charged, which are payable in advance, are at the rates of 1 *s.*, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, and 5 *s.* a quarter. A very slight increase, therefore, in the 2 *s.* 6 *d.* and 5 *s.* fees; leaving the 1 *s.* fee untouched, would yield the increase now asked for.

We are, therefore, of opinion that the increase now sought should not be made from the public Vote; and we would further recommend that a serious endeavour should be made by developing the income arising from fees to reduce the present cost of these schools to the public Exchequer.

— No. 2. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 2nd June 1874.

THE Commissioners take up the further consideration of the Report of the Departmental Committee.

With respect to the fees of the pupils attending the District and Minor Model Schools, the Commissioners are prepared to adopt the suggestion that the fees of 2 *s.* 6 *d.* and 5 *s.*

per

per quarter shall be increased; the fee of 1 s. 1 d. a quarter remaining untouched; and they propose to raise the fee of 2 s. 6 d. to 5 s., and the fee of 5 s. to 10 s. a quarter.

The Commissioners will be prepared to meet the increase to salaries and allowances to some members of the staff connected with these model schools out of the income arising from fees instead of from the Public Vote.

— No. 3. —

EXTRACT from LETTER of Commissioners of National Education, to Under Secretary, Dublin Castle, 11th June 1874, in reference to Report of Departmental Commission.

MODEL SCHOOLS.

WITH respect to the fees of the pupils attending the District and Minor National Schools, the Commissioners are prepared to adopt the suggestion that the fees of 2 s. 6 d. and 5 s. per quarter shall be increased; the fee of 1 s. 1 d. a quarter remaining untouched; and they propose to raise the fee of 2 s. 6 d. to 5 s., and the fee of 5 s. to 10 s. a quarter.

They will be prepared to meet the increase to salaries and allowances to some members of the staff connected with these model schools out of the income from fees instead of from the Public Vote.

— No. 4. —

(9625—74.)

EXTRACT from LETTER from Dublin Castle, dated 4th December 1874, and its Enclosures, relative to Increase of Fees payable by Children attending Model Schools.

"I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit herewith, for the information of the Commissioners of National Education, copies of my letter of the 22nd July last, to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and of their Lordships' reply of the 2nd instant; and to request that you will be so good as to move the Commissioners to send in, with as little delay as possible, an estimate framed upon the final decision of their Lordships, as conveyed in their letter above referred to.

(signed) "M. E. Hicks Beach."

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

EXTRACT from Copy of Letter 22nd July, above referred to.

MODEL SCHOOLS.

"Irish Office, 22 July 1874.

"It will be perceived that the Commissioners propose to raise the fee of 2 s. 6 d. per quarter to 5 s., and the fee of 5 s. per quarter to 10 s.; and that they will be prepared to meet the increase of salaries and allowances to some members of the staff connected with the model schools, out of the income arising from fees instead of Public Vote.

"Their Excellencies are not at present prepared to say, looking to the superior character of the education imparted in the model schools, and to the fact that two-thirds of the children attending these schools probably belong, in about equal proportion, to the well-paid working, middle, and higher classes, whether the proposed increase be sufficient; and they have no materials before them from which to estimate the amount of increased local contribution to be derived from the proposed augmentation in the quarterly fees.

"They wish it, therefore, to be understood, that they give only a provisional assent to the recommendation of the Board, and reserve to themselves the right to recommend such further increase as subsequent inquiry may determine."

Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

EXTRACT from LETTER from Treasury, dated 2nd December, referred to in Letter of 4th December 1874.

Treasury Chambers, 2 December 1874.

"AN increase of the fees in the model schools is of more than its merely financial importance as an increased extra receipt. My Lords receive with great satisfaction the announcement

announcement that the Education Commissioners propose to double the two highest classes of fee, and that the only hesitation of the Irish Government about agreeing to this proposal is, whether it might not be carried further. My Lords regard this increase in the same light as the Committee of Inquiry regards the recommendation that 'the parents shall henceforth pay the cost of the books used by their children in school, viz., that it is a step, though a small one, towards developing local contributions, which at the present time scarcely exceed one-ninth of the public money spent annually for education in Ireland;' the proportion of local contribution to State aid in Great Britain being three-fifths, after including, not only direct grants, but all the cost of administration and inspection."

— No. 5. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 8th December 1874.

Ordered, That the Chief Secretary be informed that the new arrangement as to the school fees to be paid by the pupils in model schools is to take effect from 1st January 1875.

— No. 6. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 22nd December 1874.

READ letter from Mr. Brown, Inspector, District No. 11, stating that it is the belief of the teachers of the Lurgan Minor Model National School, that payment for the admission of pupils at the increased rate of fee will in many cases be refused, and that as a consequence, the attendance, for a time at least, will be seriously reduced. Also asking for instructions as to the admission of pupils in case any of the parents should tender the present rate of fee and refuse to pay at the increased rate.

Ordered, That a circular be issued to each inspector in charge of a model school empowering him to admit pupils at the rate of 2s. 6d. a quarter, whenever the circumstances of the case appear to require this arrangement as regards pupils already enrolled.

— No. 7. —

EXTRACT from Minutes of Board, dated 5th January 1875.

THE Commissioners reconsider their Order of the 22nd December 1874, with reference to the fee of 2s. 6d. being continued in the case of children already enrolled at that rate as pupils in model schools.

Ordered, That the inspectors in charge of model schools be permitted to admit at that rate children presenting themselves for the first time for admission, in cases where it may appear to be desirable.

— No. 8. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 9th February 1875.

READ letter from Mr. O'Neill, District Inspector, as to the effect of the recent order respecting "fees" in the Ballymoney Model School.

Ordered, That the inspector be informed that the Commissioners approve of the instructions given by him to the principals of the three departments (boys, girls, and infants) to admit at the old rates pupils whose parents state that the increased rates are too high for their means.

(1791—75.)

LETTER from Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education to Right Honourable Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.

Office of National Education,
11 March 1875.

Sir,

REFERRING to the recommendation of the Departmental Committee of Inquiry, respecting an increased rate of fees for pupils of model schools, which was sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in their letter of the 2nd December, a copy of which was transmitted to this office in your letter of the 4th of that month, we are directed to inform you that the Commissioners of National Education, in December last, issued a new tariff of fees, viz., 1 s., 5 s., and 10 s. per quarter, to be paid by the pupils of model schools.

Representations, however, were made to the Commissioners that the abolition of the 2 s. 6 d. fee would be a serious embarrassment to the efficient working of many of the model schools.

Indeed, reclamation against any increase in the rates was very generally made by the parents and leading residents in many places in which there are model schools.

The Commissioners, therefore, whilst resolving to carry out their instructions, deemed it advisable to retain the 2 s. 6 d. fee in every case where the parent declared himself unable to pay an advanced fee.

We are directed to request that you may be good enough to acquaint the Lords of the Treasury with this arrangement, and at the same time to assure their Lordships that it will always be the anxious desire of the Commissioners to develop local support in aid of the model schools as much as possible.

We have, &c.
(signed) James Kelly,
Wm. H. Newell,
Secretaries.

Right Honourable
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle.

(4326.)

LETTER from the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle, to the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education.

Gentlemen,

Dublin Castle, 16 March 1875.

REFERRING to your letter of the 11th instant, relative to the rate of fees for pupils of model schools, I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to request that you will move the Commissioners of National Education to state, for his Grace's information, whether the retention of the fee of 2 s. 6 d. will affect, and if so, to what extent, the extra Exchequer receipt of 1,500 l., which the Commissioners in their estimate calculated would be received, in consequence of the general raising of the fee.

(signed) T. H. Burke.

The Secretaries to the Commissioners
of National Education.

LETTER from the Commissioners of National Education to the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle.

Office of National Education,
10 April 1875.

Sir,

IN answer to your letter of the 16th ultimo (4326), asking, for the information of the Lord Lieutenant, "whether the retention of the fee of 2 s. 6 d. will affect, and if so, to what extent, the extra Exchequer receipt of 1,500 l.," we are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to state, for the information of his Grace, that the estimate of the extra Exchequer receipt under the head of Model School Fees, amounting to 1,500 l., was based on the supposition that the parents of the pupils in attendance at these schools would readily acquiesce in the proposal for an increase in the higher rates; and that a majority of those paying at the 5 s. rate would consent to pay 10 s., while those paying the

the 2 s. 6 d. rate would consent to pay 5 s.; and it was intended that the whole increase thus obtained should be paid into the Treasury as an extra Exchequer receipt.

The reclamation of the parents against the proposed increase was so general and so serious that, if the Commissioners had insisted upon carrying it out, as mentioned in our letter of the 11th ultimo, the usefulness of the schools would have been greatly interfered with, and the attendance seriously reduced.

The retention of the 2 s. 6 d. rate has enabled the inspectors to increase the fee of some who had been paying the 1 s. 1 d. rate, and in this way the effect has been beneficial; its abolition would have precluded any such increase, and would have necessitated the admission of a great number at 1 s. 1 d. who are willing to pay the 2 s. 6 d.

Having now had the experience of three months of the working of the new arrangement, and taking all the circumstances of the schools into account, the Commissioners consider that there will be a total increase of 700 l. on the amount of school fees, and that the extra Exchequer receipt, estimated at 1,500 l. may, therefore, be taken at about 700 l.

We are, &c.
(signed) *James Kelly,*
Wm. H. Newell,
Secretaries.

The Under Secretary,
Dublin Castle.

— No. 12. —

LETTER from the Secretaries of the National Board of Education to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Office of National Education, Dublin,
8 May 1875.

Sir,

WE are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to request the attention of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to the following extract from the Report of the Departmental Committee, which recently inquired into the various matters connected with this Department.

MODEL SCHOOLS:

"Our attention has been drawn to this branch of the administration of the Commissioners of National Education by a recommendation made by them for certain increases of salaries and allowances to some of the staff, amounting to 968 l. for the year 1874-75, which the Treasury have referred to us."

D. I.—Central Model Schools—Boys', Girls', and Infants' Schools:	£.
Five assistant teachers, not paid by classification, to have an increase of 5 l. each - - - - -	25
Five assistant teachers paid by classification and supplemental salaries:—Males, increase from 20 l. to 25 l., and females, 15 l. to 20 l. each, as supplemental salaries - - - - -	25
Two teachers of needlework and sewing machines:—Increase at 2 s. each per week, viz., from 15 s. to 17 s. - - - - -	11
Seven additional schools:—Seven male and female assistants' supplemental salaries to be increased by 4 l. each, viz.:—Males, 16 l. to 20 l.; females, 12 l. to 16 l. - - - - -	28
	£. 89
D. II., III., and IV.—West Dublin Model School, Inchicore Model School, and Glasnevin Industrial School:	£.
Ten male and female assistants, increase on similar scale as above, viz.:—Males, from 16 l. to 20 l.; females, 12 l. to 16 l., 4 l. each - - - - -	40
D. II.—West Dublin Model School:	
Workmistress's salary to increase from 30 l. to 35 l. - - - - -	5
Evening School Department.	
To provide for salaries of teachers of above - - - - -	30
Carried forward - - - - -	£. 164

	£.	£.
Brought forward - - -	-	164
D. V.—District Model Schools:		
Increase in supplemental salaries of 80 assistant teachers, viz.:—Males from 16 l. to 20 l.; females, 12 l. to 16 l., 4 l. each - - - - -	320	
Allowance to head masters for maintenance of servants, numbering about 30. Present scale, 14 l. to be increased to 20 l., 6 l. each - - - - -	180	
To provide for wages of matrons in each establishment in which there are maintained resident pupil teachers, wages varying from 6 l. to 20 l. per year - - - - -	200	
		700
Minor Model Schools:		
Twenty-six assistant teachers,—Scale similar to District Model Schools - - - - -	104	
		104
TOTAL - - - - -	£.	968

On this point the Departmental Committee observe—

“That a very slight increase in the 2 s. 6 d. and the 5 s. fees, leaving the 1 s. fee untouched, would yield the increase now asked for.”

And they further state,—

“We are, therefore, of opinion that the increase now sought should not be made from the Public Vote, and we further recommend that a serious endeavour should be made by developing the income arising from fees, to reduce the present cost of these schools to the Public Exchequer.”

Their Lordships having been pleased to approve of the recommendations of the Departmental Committee, and the Commissioners of National Education having carried the recommendations into effect, by ordering increase to be made from 1st January 1875 in the rate of school fees, heretofore charged to the well-paid working and the higher classes, it is respectfully submitted that, although as just stated, the new scale of fees did not come into operation until the 1st of January 1875, the Commissioners should be authorized to pay the several sums referred to from the 1st April 1874, as proposed in their Estimate for 1874-75, out of the balances of school fees unappropriated at the end of the financial year, amounting to 1,192 l. 0 s. 7 d., being 192 l. 0 s. 7 d. in excess of the estimate under this head. This excess of the estimate of the amount of school fees returnable as an extra Exchequer receipt, is attributable to the operation of the new scale of fees during the quarter ending the 31st March 1875.

We are, &c.
(signed) *James Kelly,*
Wm. H. Newell,
Secretaries.

The Secretary,
Treasury Chambers, London.

— No. 13. —

(3569—75.)

LETTER from the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle, to the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education.

Gentlemen,

Dublin Castle, 8 June 1875.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit herewith, for the information of the Commissioners of National Education, a copy of a letter which has been received from the Secretary to the Treasury on the subject of the estimate for their department for 1875-76; and I am to request that you will move the Commissioners to favour his Grace with such observations as they may desire to offer thereon, especially with reference to model farms.

The Secretaries to the Commissioners
of National Education.

I am, &c.
(signed) *T. H. Burke.*

Enclosure in No. 13.

EXTRACT from Copy of LETTER above referred to, dated Treasury Chambers,
5th June 1875.

IN Mr. Burke's letter of the 29th April last, my Lords are informed that the Commissioners of National Education have failed to carry into effect even such an increase of fees in the model schools as in your letter of the 22nd July last was not accepted by the Irish Government without an expression of doubt as to its sufficiency, thereby sacrificing about 800 *l.* of the estimated increased extra receipt of 1,500 *l.* Notwithstanding, however, this failure, the Commissioners of National Education, in a letter dated the 8th of May last, have applied to my Lords to sanction an increase of salaries in the model schools as from 1st of April 1874, amounting to 968 *l.*, and they attempt to support this proposal by reference to the report of the Committee of Inquiry, who, however, expressly say that the increase should not be made from the public Vote; but this result must follow, sooner or later if the increase of the fees is only 700 *l.* per annum, and that of salaries 968 *l.*, yielding a balance of 268 *l.* against the vote.

(signed) R. R. W. Lingen.

— No. 14. —

EXTRACT from LETTER of the 18th June 1875, to the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle, from the Secretaries of the Board of National Education, Ireland.

MODEL SCHOOL FEES.

OUR letter of the 10th of April last, addressed to you, describes the urgency of the modification which the Commissioners proposed, as to the fees to be paid by the pupils of the model schools. The Commissioners, we are directed to say, are thoroughly resolved to carry out, as far as practicable, the policy of the Government that these schools should become as self-supporting as possible. But in the interest of the schools themselves, which are so important a feature in the organisation of the national system, the reform must be a matter of cautious and gradual development. If, owing to the unexpected resistance to an increase of the fees displayed in the north of Ireland, where the model schools are chiefly situate, the receipts of fees in the current year fall below the anticipations of the Commissioners, it is yet estimated that an increase of about 700 *l.* may be calculated upon, which, of course, is practically a saving to that amount.

SALARIES OF ASSISTANTS, &c., IN MODEL SCHOOLS.

As regards the proposed increase, from 1st of April 1874, amounting to 968 *l.* to the salaries of the Assistants, &c., of the model schools, the Commissioners, adopting the recommendation of the Departmental Committee that the increases proposed in the estimate of 1874-75, for Assistants, &c., should not be made from the public Vote, submitted to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury in a letter dated the 8th ultimo, that they might be authorised to pay the increases out of the balance of school fees unappropriated at the end of the financial year, amounting to 1,192 *l.* 0 *s.* 7 *d.*, which was an excess of 192 *l.* 0 *s.* 7 *d.* over the estimate of the amount of the fees to be returned as an extra Exchequer receipt. Considering that the recommendation to make these increases had been proposed by the Board in 1873, and that owing to the smallness of the pay, great difficulty had been experienced in getting suitable candidates to compete for assistantships in model schools, and that the cases of the matrons, &c., were pressing, the Commissioners did not deem it unreasonable to claim the 968 *l.* required, from the amount returnable as an extra Exchequer receipt.

— No. 15. —

(4189-75.)

LETTER from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Commissioners of National Education.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 5 July 1875.

My Lords have received from the Chief Secretary a copy of the letter of your secretaries to him dated the 18th ultimo, relative to various questions concerning the vote for Public Education, Ireland, which were raised in the letter (9094), of the 5th ultimo from this Board to the Chief Secretary.

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Reserving for the present the rest of those questions, my Lords would be glad to receive further information upon the subject of your secretaries' letter to the Treasury of the 8th of May last, respecting a proposal to increase the salaries and allowances of certain teachers in the model schools.

My Lords wish to know whether those increases have begun to be paid?

And, if so, how it can be said that they are not made from the public Vote, if they are made in diminution of previous extra receipts to the Exchequer?

My Lords understand the Departmental Committee to mean that these increases should not be made at increased cost to the public, but only *pari passu*, with an increase in the amount of fees, up to the sums recommended; after which, a serious effort was to be made to push this increase in the fees still further, so as not only to furnish, without loss to the public, these increased salaries, but also to reduce the present cost of the model schools.

The diminution of an extra receipt is practically an increase of the vote, under another form of account.

The extra receipt from fees, for many years past, has been set down at 1,000 *l.* This year it is set down at 2,500 *l.* The extra 1,500 *l.*, if realised will cover the increased salaries in the manner which the Committee has suggested, and still leave an Exchequer receipt in excess of the old one.

My Lords wish to know whether increased salaries have begun to be paid in anticipation of this result.

The Commissioners of National Education,
Dublin.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. R. W. Lingen.

— No. 16. —

LETTER from the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

Office of National Education,
7 July 1875.

WE are to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant (10,199), requesting further information upon the subject of our letter of the 8th May last.

And we are directed to state, in reply, that no increased salaries to the teachers of model schools have begun to be paid.

We have, &c.
(signed) James Kelly,
William H. Newell,
Secretaries.

The Secretary, Treasury, London.

— No. 17. —

(4487—75.)

LETTER from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Commissioners of National Education.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 28 July 1875.

In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, in pursuance of former correspondence upon the subject of increasing the salaries of the teachers in the model schools, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you that my Lords must decline to agree to sanction the payment of any such increases as long as the extra receipts from fees in the same schools fall short of 2,000 *l.* per annum.

My Lords will be ready to consider the question further as soon as it can be shown to them, at the end of any financial year, that not less than this sum from fees taken in model schools has actually been paid over to the Exchequer.

My Lords must decline to sanction any but prospective payments; i. e., to commence in the financial year following the one wherein this result has been accomplished.

(signed) R. R. W. Lingen.

The Commissioners of National Education,
Ireland.

— No. 18. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 3rd August 1875.

SUBMITTED letter from the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury declining to sanction payment of any increments to the salaries of the assistant teachers of model schools, as long as the extra receipts from fees in the same schools fall short of 2,000 *l.* per annum.—
Read.

— No. 19. —

EXTRACT from LETTER of 5th November 1875, from the Secretaries, Education Office, to Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland, Dublin Castle.

"WITH respect to the passage in your letter, dated 27th October 1875, that in the event of the Commissioners concurring with his Grace in the opinion that the teachers of the model schools should share in the benefit of the increases, that his Grace should be informed what proportion of the total amounts those teachers would be entitled to receive; we are to state that the Commissioners are decidedly of opinion that the teachers of model schools should participate in the grants for results payments, and also in the advantages of new scale."

— No. 20. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 14th December 1875.

LETTER from his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, enclosing copy of a letter addressed to his Grace by the Lords of the Treasury on the subject of school fees in model schools.

The Secretary reads the following passages from the letter of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury of the 3rd December, to the Chief Secretary, viz. :—

"I am to add, with reference to the last paragraph of your letter, that if the teachers of model schools are to be allowed to participate in the advantages of the new scale of salaries, and the grants for results fees, their Lordships consider it more than ever important that the scale of fees should be raised to, and maintained at, rates more in proportion than those now in force to the condition of the classes using the schools, and to the character of the education given; and their Lordships trust that his Grace will impress upon the Commissioners of National Education the necessity of at once proceeding to carry out the promise they gave last year of a reform in this direction."

The Secretary also reads the following passage in the letter of Sir M. H. Beach, Chief Secretary, of the 7th December, to the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education, viz. :—

"With reference to the concluding paragraph of their Lordships' letter, I am to state that his Grace would be glad to learn that the Commissioners were prepared to increase the rates referred to in their letter of the 10th April last more in the proportion to the condition of the classes using the schools, and to the character of the education given."

The Secretary further reads the following letter from the Secretary of Her Majesty's Treasury of the 28th July to the Board, viz. :—

"In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, in pursuance of former correspondence upon the subject of increasing the salaries of the teachers in model schools, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you that my Lords must decline to agree to sanction the payment of any such increases as long as the extra receipts from fees in the same schools fall short of 2,000 l. per annum.

"My Lords will be ready to consider the question further as soon as it can be shown to them at the end of any financial year that not less than this sum from fees taken in the model schools has actually been paid over to the Exchequer.

"My Lords must decline to sanction any but prospective payments, i. e., to commence in the financial year following the one wherein this result has been accomplished."

Moved by the Right Honourable Mr. Justice Morris, that a fee of 1 l. per quarter be added as an addition to the scale for model schools.

The following members vote in favour of the Motion (7) :—

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Right Hon. M. Longfield. | 5. Sir R. Kane, <i>B.A.</i> |
| 2. Right Hon. Mr. Justice Lawson. | 6. T. J. Keenan, <i>Esq.</i> , <i>C.B.</i> |
| 3. Rev. J. H. Jellott, <i>S.F.</i> , <i>T.C.D.</i> | 7. Right Hon. Mr. Justice Morris. |
| 4. J. Lentsaigne, <i>Esq.</i> , <i>C.B.</i> | |

The following vote against the Motion (2) :—

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Rev. C. L. Marrell. | 2. James Gibson, <i>Esq.</i> , <i>Q.C.</i> |
|------------------------|--|

The Motion is accordingly declared carried.

Moved by the Resident Commissioner, and approved—*"That the following regulations shall be adopted and come into operation from the 1st January 1876, with a view of further carrying into effect the representations of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury and of the Irish Government, and, accordingly, of securing results fees and the new scale*

of class salaries, amounting in all to nearly 6,000 L. to the teachers of the model schools, viz:—

1. Instead of the proportions of the fees hitherto in force varying from one-half downwards, in the several model schools, and paid into the Exchequer as an extra receipt, a uniform rate of one-third shall be reserved in all model schools. By this arrangement it is estimated that at least 2,000 L., the minimum required by the Treasury, will be available as an extra Exchequer receipt, as compared with 1,192 L. paid over to the Exchequer in the year ended 31st March 1875.

2. Of the remaining two-thirds of the fees, one-half in each school shall be paid to the principal teachers, and the other half be divided in equal shares amongst the assistants.

3. This principle of distribution of the fees shall apply to the 10 s. rate, of which only somewhat less than half was hitherto apportioned amongst the teachers; and also to the pound rate just adopted by the Board.

— No. 21. —

(7143—75.)

EXTRACT from TREASURY LETTER, dated 17th December 1875 (No. 18,090—75).

MY Lords have had before them, at the same time, a copy of the Chief Secretary's letter of the 7th instant, upon the subject of the insufficient fees which you continue to exact in the model schools; and I am to remind you that my Lords have received no communication to show what steps have been, or are intended to be taken, on the letter from this Board of 28th July last (18,840).

My Lords cannot but regard the question of adequately raising these fees as of pressing importance.

(signed) R. R. W. Linges.

— No. 22. —

LETTER from the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education to the Right Honourable Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.

Education Office, Dublin,
18 December 1875.

Sir,

WE are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to acquaint you that the part of your letter of the 7th instant, having reference to the question of the school fees paid by the pupils of model schools, was specially considered at their meeting on Tuesday last the 14th instant.

The Commissioners had on this occasion also under consideration the letter to you of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury of the 3rd of December, and their Lordships' letter of the 28th of July to this Board.

The Commissioners direct us to assure his Grace, that it has been their most earnest desire to carry out the views of the Treasury, and of Her Majesty's Government, to obtain the highest possible return of fees from the pupils attending their model schools, consistently with the general interests and exigencies of these schools.

It cannot be a matter unknown to Her Majesty's Government that when in the commencement of this year a higher scale of fees was adopted than the scale hitherto prevailing, an opposition of the most serious character was raised to the new proposal.

Public meetings were held in many of the leading towns of Ulster (a province in which there are 14 of the 26 district and minor model schools) deprecating the increase of the fees. Petitions and memorials were addressed to the Board to the same effect.

The northern press echoed the sentiments of the meetings and the petitioners.

The attendance at some of the schools fell off in consequence, as alleged, of the movement.

The Commissioners however made the best effort in their power to maintain the fees at the highest point.

Taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, they feel bound to observe (although owing to the determined opposition which the new proposal encountered their anticipations of increased receipts are not realized) that some advance has been made in the direction of rendering the model schools more self-supporting than hitherto.

In the last quarter of 1874, under the old scale of fees, the following was the result:—

At 5 s. a quarter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,571
At 2 s. 6 d. "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,062
At 1 s. 1 d. "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,333
TOTAL								10,966

In

In the last week of November of the current year the result was,—

At 10 s. a quarter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	894
At 5 s. "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,307
At 2 s. 6 d. "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,715
At 1 s. 1 d. "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,872
TOTAL - -								10,588

The Commissioners, at their meeting on Tuesday last, in deference to the suggestion of his Grace and their Lordships, as to the imposition of still higher rates, resolved that a fee of one pound (1 £) per quarter should be added to the scale of model schools; and they also resolved, with a view of further carrying into effect the representations of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, and of the Irish Government, that the following regulations should be adopted, and come into operation from the 1st of January 1876:—

1. Instead of the proportion of the fees hitherto in force, varying from one-half downwards in the several model schools, and paid into the Exchequer as an extra receipt, a uniform rate of one-third of the fees shall be reserved in all model schools. By this arrangement it is estimated that, as even now, the *total* receipts are at the rate of about 6,000 £ a year, at least 2,000 £, the minimum required by the Treasury, will be available as an extra Exchequer receipt, as compared with 1,192 £ paid over to the Exchequer in the year ended 31st March 1875.

2. Of the remaining two-thirds of the fees, one-half in each school shall be paid to the principal teachers, and the other half shall be divided in equal shares amongst the assistants.

3. This principle of distribution of the fees shall apply to the 10 s. rate, of which only somewhat less than half was hitherto apportioned amongst the teachers, and also to the pound rate just adopted by the Board.

The Commissioners are quite satisfied that the appropriation of a third of the fees, for an extra Exchequer receipt, with the institution of the pound rate, and the principle of giving the teachers an interest in the success of the higher fees, will more than realise the requirements of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, viz., 2,000 £, as laid down in their letter of the 28th of July, but owing to the unforeseen difficulties which beset the effort to increase the fees it cannot now be safely said that much, for the *current* year, above the average of previous years, can be realised.

It is of course to be borne in mind that in reserving a third of the fees for the Exchequer, the teachers will, on the whole, in this respect sustain a slight loss.

To the teachers of 17 of the 26 district and minor model schools, and to those in the metropolitan model schools, the Poor Law Boards have consented to pay a contributory aid under the new Act, a circumstance which goes far to satisfy the principle of local effort in support of these schools.

We should add that in apportioning the supplementary estimate of this year, and preparing the ordinary estimate of next year, the Commissioners have assumed, under the authority of his Grace's expression of opinion, conveyed in your letter of the 27th of October, that the result fees and improved class salaries would be applicable to the teachers of the model schools.

Under all the circumstances the Commissioners earnestly hope that his Grace will urge the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to allow the model school teachers to participate in the advantage of the payment on results, an advantage which they have enjoyed for the last three years, and also in the improved class salaries.

We have, &c.
(signed) *James Kelly,*
Wm. H. Newell, } Secretaries.

Right Hon. Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 23. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 1st February 1876.

THE Secretary reads the Rev. Dr. Henry's motion of which he gave notice, and which was postponed from last meeting; also a memorial of the head teachers of model schools, stating that their incomes will be lessened by the recent rule as to proportion of school-fees to be paid to them.

The Resident Commissioner then proposes:—

1. To ascertain what has been the average fee per pupil in average attendance enjoyed by each principal teacher in the period of the last three years, viz., 1873, 1874, and 1875.

2. And to apply to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury for authority to guarantee to each principal teacher *at present* in the service of the Board for each pupil in average attendance the average fee so ascertained, if the third of the fees on the new scale should fail to realise so much.

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During

During the discussion on the above, the Rev. C. L. Morell gives notice that he will move on the 8th instant, "That the fee of 1*l.*, added as a new fee to the existing scale of fees of model schools, be abolished."

Pending the decision of the Board on the Rev. Mr. Morell's motion, the further consideration of the above is postponed to the next meeting.

— No. 24. —

(899—76.)

LETTER from Mr. T. Sinclair to the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education.

Belfast, 7 February 1876.

Gentlemen,
HEREWITH I beg to hand Memorial from the Council of the National Education League for Ireland, relative to the recent action of the Board regarding model schools, which I shall thank you to lay before the Commissioners at their meeting to-morrow.

I am, &c.

(signed) Thomas Sinclair.

The Secretaries,
Office of National Education, Marlborough-street,
Dublin.

Enclosure in No. 24.

To the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.

Gentlemen,

WE, the Council of National Education League for Ireland, respectfully beg leave to remonstrate against some of your recent measures, which appear to us calculated to injure the district model schools, institutions which have been founded at the public expense, under the superintendence of your Board, for the promotion of the national system of education, and which we, therefore, conceive it is your duty to uphold.

From the date of the establishment of those schools, the school fees paid by pupils attending them were fixed at rates varying from 1*s.* to 5*s.* per quarter. By your orders, dated 18th December 1874, and 31st December 1875, those fees are now to range from 1*s.* to 20*s.* per quarter. We submit that such a scale of payments is in direct violation of both the Charters under which you held your office.

Each of these documents declares that your Board is appointed "*in order to promote the welfare by providing for the education of the poor in Ireland;*" and as the poor cannot afford to pay 20*s.* a quarter, or even 10*s.* a quarter for the education of each of their children, your orders manifestly overstep the functions assigned to you by the State.

Any attempt to enforce such orders would at once drive away a large proportion of the children, would reduce many of the schools to a state of utter inefficiency, and would pave the way for that entire abolition of the model schools which their enemies loudly demand.

Your Board has never hesitated, according to the testimony of your late Resident Commissioner, to endow out of the public funds rival schools set up in the immediate neighbourhood of model schools, though well aware that they were expressly designed to draw away the pupils from the latter. You cannot be unaware that in many of those rival establishments the fees are merely nominal. Yet in model schools you propose to charge some pupils 10*s.* a quarter, and others 1*l.* When to this is added the effect of ecclesiastical denunciations, what can be expected but that several of your school-rooms will be left comparatively untenanted. That they have not been so left already is simply owing to the fact that your former order has not been, because it could not be, enforced.

We have learned that the teachers in the model schools have received intimation that unless they enforce the required scale of fees from the children, which can only be done by expelling from the schools all who refuse to pay them, the result payments which they may earn will be withheld. We submit that this would be a manifest breach of faith with the teachers themselves, as also with the guardians of those contributory poor-law unions in which model schools are situated. When the latter agreed to tax themselves and their constituents in order to augment the payments for results, they never contemplated that those payments were to be intercepted from the teachers, unless the latter complied with some arbitrary and *ex post facto* regulations; nor was this the intention of the Legislature in passing the National Teachers' Act. This is a measure which, we believe, a British Parliament will never enact.

We perceive from the terms of your Order, dated 31st December 1875, that in future the principal teachers in model schools are only to receive henceforth one-third of the school fees contributed by the children. We submit that this order cannot justly be enforced, inasmuch as the agreement entered into between those teachers on the one part, and your Board on the other, as witnessed by the signature of your secretaries and your inspector, expressly provides that the teachers are to enjoy "one-half of the school fees." We object to this as a serious inroad on the very moderate incomes of a truly deserving class of public officers. We object to it still more as calculated to deter well-qualified persons, both male and female, from engaging in the honourable, laborious, and useful

useful profession of teachers in the national schools, the natural consequence of which will be a decline in the talents and learning of the teaching staff in after times, a deterioration in the quality of the instruction imparted, and a loss of character and efficiency, to be at no distant date succeeded by the downfall of the model schools, by far the best and most important portion of the system under your control.

Signed, in the name and by order of the Council,

James Hamilton, Knight, Chairman.
Geo. C. Smythe,
J. Scott Porter,
Robert G. Jones,
Thomas Sinclair, } Secretaries.

Belfast, 31 January 1876.

— No. 25. —

EXTRACT from Minutes of the Board of National Education, Ireland, dated
8th February 1876.

Pursuant to notice given on the 1st instant, the Rev. C. L. Morell moves:—

"That the fee of 1 *l.*, added as a new fee to the existing scale of fees of model schools, be abolished."

The Commissioners having considered the question, vote as follows:—

In support of the Motion, 4.

1. Rev. Dr. Henry, F.R.C., Belfast.
2. James Gibson, Esq., Q.C.
3. James W. Murland, Esq., and
4. Rev. C. L. Morell.

Against the Motion, 8.

1. The Duke of Leinster,
2. Mr. Justice Lawson,
3. Mr. Justice FitzGerald,
4. John O'Hagan, Esq., Q.C.,
5. Mr. Justice Morris,
6. Rev. J. H. Jellett, S.F., T.C.D.,
7. Sir R. Kane, F.R.S., and
8. P. J. Keenan, Esq., C.B.

The Motion is accordingly declared lost.

— No. 26. —

(1079—76.)

LETTER from the Rev. James Tobias, on behalf of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, to the Commissioners of National Education.

Mount Michael, Sandymount, Dublin,
12 February 1876.

Gentlemen,

THE Committee appointed annually by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Ireland to act in its behalf in matters of national interest, during the interval of its sessions, has had its attention directed to some recent regulations issued by you as to the management of the district model schools established in connection with your Board.

We earnestly deprecate the disposition for frequent change manifested of late years in your Board's orders concerning the fees payable in these schools, as well as in other matters affecting them. These changes have been so frequent, and some of them of so grave a character, as greatly to disturb the confidence of the public in these schools; they must also very much embarrass the masters, and if the course you have taken shall be persevered in, we are persuaded your model schools will, to a large extent, be crippled in their action, and their value to the country be greatly impaired, if they are not utterly destroyed.

To require 10s. per quarter from some and 20s. from other pupils in these schools, is certainly to withdraw them from the work of "promoting the welfare by providing for the education of the poor of Ireland," which is the very object of your existence as a Board, and so declared to be by your charters.

To seek to enforce your orders for the payment of these excessive fees, excessive in relation to the circumstances of those called upon to pay them, by the intimation to the masters that they will be liable to have their accustomed results payments withheld from them if they do not enforce them, is, in our estimation, unjust to them as well as to all the poor law unions which have consented to become contributory to such payments.

And can your Board reasonably expect that men of any character and ability will continue in your service if the terms of the contract under which they engaged in your service may be changed arbitrarily every year at your Board's pleasure. They would not be so dealt with in any other branch of the public service.

We trust your Board will reconsider these very objectionable orders to which we have referred, and so far return to the original scale of payments in the model schools as to preserve in their earlier efficiency what we esteem a vital department of the system of national education of which you have the oversight.

We have, &c.

By order and on behalf of the Committee,
(signed) *James Tobias,*

Wesleyan Methodist Minister,
Secretary.

To the Commissioners of
National Education in Ireland.

— No. 27. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 15th February 1876.

LETTER from the Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Ireland, remonstrating against recent regulations as to school fees charged in district model schools.—
Read.

— No. 28. —

LETTER from the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education to the
Secretary of the Treasury.

Office of National Education, Dublin,
14 February 1876.

Sir,

In reference to our letter, of the 18th of December, to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, a copy of which was sent to you, for the consideration of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, we are directed to state that the Commissioners of National Education, after much deliberation, have resolved to recommend for the approval of their Lordships a modification of a temporary character, which will be hereafter described, of that part of their proposals relating principally to the proportion of the school fees to be given to the head teachers of the model schools.

The accompanying Table shows the principle upon which the fees of the model schools have for many years been distributed, with the value of the share in each school (for the last financial year) reserved for the Exchequer, and of that paid to the teachers.

Under the terms of their appointments and agreements with the Board, the head teachers had half of the school fees; the assistants had varying shares.

When it was decided by the Commissioners, on the recommendation of the Departmental Committee, to increase the school fees in the model schools, it was determined to reserve for the Exchequer the excess of the new fee over the old as a set off to proposals then before the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury for an increase to the salaries of the assistant teachers of the model schools, and, generally speaking, in relief of the Parliamentary Grant. Throughout the year 1875 the excess, 6s., of the new 10s. fee over the old 5s. fee, was in all cases reserved for the Exchequer, and the remaining 5s. was dealt with as if an old 5s. fee, part of it in many cases accruing to the Exchequer.

The experience of the last year has, however, shown that as by this arrangement the teachers had no personal interest in the new fee, the likelihood of making it, or any other new fee apportioned on the same principle, a sure source of growing income for the Exchequer, was exceedingly doubtful. It was therefore determined by the Commissioners, when reviewing the whole question of the fees, as conveyed in their proposals of the 18th of December, that whatever share of the fees might be allotted to the teachers, that share should apply to the whole of the fees, new or old.

Then when taking into consideration the requisition of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, in their letter of the 28th of July 1875, viz., that to warrant any increase of the salaries of the teachers an extra Exchequer receipt of 2,000L should be secured, the Commissioners could not fail to perceive that if only the old proportions of the fees, as shown in the accompanying Table, were to be reserved for the Exchequer, it would be impossible to apply the principle, just stated, of a uniform participation in all the fees, and yet secure the required 2,000L. It will be perceived by reference to the Table that no matter to what rate the fees might be raised, the principle of distribution hitherto in force, if applied to all the fees, would be productive of very little gain to the Exchequer. For instance, in the case of the girls' and infants' departments of the Belfast Model School, no share whatever could be reserved for the Exchequer, as the whole of the fees are given to the teachers; and in the case of the boys' department only one-twentieth could be reserved. Of 708L 2s. 10d. received in fees in all the departments of the school, in the last financial year, only 17L 7s. 4d. was reserved for the Exchequer; whilst, as affording an illustration of the unequal operation of the old plan, it will be observed that of 108L 8s. 3d. received in school fees in the Kilkenny Model School, as much as 33L 7s. 6d. was reserved for the Exchequer.

The Commissioners have, therefore, deemed it advisable that a uniform rate should be reserved for the Exchequer, so that each school should contribute its proportionate quota, and that the incidence of this principle of distribution upon the whole body of the
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model school teachers should be equal and just. And, taking into consideration the requirements of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners have, as stated in our letter of the 18th of December, decided that that uniform rate should be fixed at one-third. Such a rate would secure the 2,000 l. required by their Lordships.

To enable the Commissioners to carry out this proposal, it was necessary to re-adjust the proportions of the fees accruing to the teachers. The head teachers hitherto received half of the fees of their several departments. Their letters of appointment and agreement, as already stated, laid down one-half as their proportion of the fees. But in contemplation of giving, for the first time, a full participation in the new fees, the 10 s. and the 20 s. rate, and also with a view of securing them a grant for results fees, the proportion of one-half was reduced to one-third.

In our letter of the 18th December, the Commissioners, however, expressed an opinion that in reserving a third of the fees for the Exchequer, the teachers to gain results payments, &c., would, on the whole, sustain a loss in respect to school fees.

Although the assistants under the new arrangement will experience a slight loss of school fees, any such loss will be more than counterbalanced by their acquisition of improved class salaries, and increased results fees; whilst, on the other hand, the head teachers, who, as they have special salaries, gain nothing by the improved scale of class salaries, must, on the whole, in consequence of the opposition to the higher fees evinced in many parts of the country, gain less by having one *third*, with full participation in the new fees, than by having a *half* at the old rates. The Commissioners, taking this into account, and also taking into account their agreements with the head teachers to give them half of the fees payable at the time the agreements were signed, and desirous that officers, so efficient and meritorious, should have no just grounds for complaint, have decided—

That the average fee per pupil in average attendance enjoyed by each principal teacher, in the period of the last three years, viz., 1873, 1874, 1875, should be ascertained, and that their Lordships should be requested to authorise the Board to guarantee to each principal teacher *at present* in the service of the Commissioners, for each pupil in average attendance, the average fee so ascertained, *if the third of the fees on the new scale should fail to realise so much.*

This principle of indemnification will, it is proposed, also apply to five of the assistant teachers in the central model schools, Marlboro'-street, Dublin, who have fixed salaries, and who, therefore, whilst losing a proportion of school fees, gain nothing by the improved scale of class salaries; and to six assistants in the district and minor model schools who had special allowances of fees; and to four teachers of extra subjects (drawing and music) who hitherto received special contributions from the school fees.

The Commissioners desire to have the sanction of their Lordships to this modification of the proposal contained in their letter of the 15th December.

It is, of course, arranged that all new appointments shall be made on the principle of securing a *third* of the fees from each school for the Exchequer.

As regards the financial considerations of this proposal, it is to be observed that the average school fees enjoyed by the whole staff of the model school teachers (principal and assistants) during the last three years, amounted, in round numbers, to 5,000 l. a year. The immediate proposal now submitted to their Lordships is, that the head teachers shall be secured the average rate of the last three years. So that an average of 5,000 l. will be about the maximum payable to the teachers until the third to the head teachers, and the other third to the assistants, on the new principle, shall become an improvement upon this sum.

On the 31st January the fees actually paid by the pupils under the new arrangements are,—

30 at 1 l.	a quarter.
842 at 10 s.	"
3,232 at 5 s.	"
3,549 at 2 s. 6 d.	"
2,576 at 1 s. 1 d.	"

or at the rate of 7,368 l. 12 s. 8 d. a year; and thus even providing for fluctuations in attendance or casualties, more than the minimum sum of 2,000 l. may be obtained for the Exchequer, whilst securing that the principal teachers shall sustain no loss on the average of former years.

We have, &c.
(signed) James Kelly,
Wm. H. Newell,
Secretaries.

The Secretary,
Treasury Chambers, London.

MODEL SCHOOLS.

RETURN showing the Proportion of SCHOOL FEES payable into the Treasury, and also the Proportion payable to the Teaching Staff (for Financial Year ended 31st March 1875).

SCHOOL.		Proportion to Treasury.		Proportion to Teachers.	
			£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Athy - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$ =	8 3 0	$\frac{2}{3}$ =	24 11 3
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	0 14 0	$\frac{2}{3}$	20 4 3
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	7 4 7	$\frac{1}{2}$	7 4 7
Ballisborough - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$	13 16 -	$\frac{1}{2}$	47 8 -
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	14 16 0	$\frac{1}{2}$	44 7 3
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	12 1 6	$\frac{1}{2}$	12 1 6
Ballymena - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$	17 7 4	$\frac{1}{2}$	52 2 -
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	17 16 3	$\frac{1}{2}$	63 8 9
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	6 3 11	$\frac{1}{2}$	18 11 9
Belfast - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{17}$	17 7 4	$\frac{10}{17}$	329 19 4
	Female -	-	Nil	All	230 1 1
	Infant -	-	Nil	All	104 15 1
Clonmel - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$	12 6 6	$\frac{1}{2}$	36 19 6
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	8 - -	$\frac{1}{2}$	24 - -
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	8 8 0	$\frac{1}{2}$	8 8 9
Coleraine - - - -	Male -	-	Nil	All	65 5 8
	Female -	-	Nil	All	49 5 4
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	18 18 0	$\frac{1}{2}$	18 18 6
Cork - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{10}$	15 12 10	$\frac{9}{10}$	140 16 6
	Female -	$\frac{1}{10}$	15 11 1	$\frac{9}{10}$	189 19 9
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	19 10 1	$\frac{1}{2}$	78 - 4
Dunmawey - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$	10 19 4	$\frac{1}{2}$	32 18 -
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	10 16 4	$\frac{1}{2}$	32 0 -
Enniscorthy - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$	2 18 8	$\frac{1}{2}$	8 16 10
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	12 18 9	$\frac{1}{2}$	12 18 9
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	5 10 1	$\frac{1}{2}$	5 19 1
Enniskillen - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$	14 2 -	$\frac{1}{2}$	70 10 -
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	12 4 8	$\frac{1}{2}$	36 14 -
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	10 8 6	$\frac{1}{2}$	31 6 3
Galway - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$	10 12 1	$\frac{1}{2}$	31 16 3
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	7 7 10	$\frac{1}{2}$	22 3 6
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	7 1 8	$\frac{1}{2}$	21 3 9
Kilkenny - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{2}$	14 2 8	$\frac{1}{2}$	42 6 9
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	6 14 6	$\frac{1}{2}$	20 8 6
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	12 10 9	$\frac{1}{2}$	12 10 9
Limerick - - - -	Male -	$\frac{1}{10}$	9 2 0	$\frac{9}{10}$	63 19 2
	Female -	$\frac{1}{2}$	14 6 7	$\frac{1}{2}$	42 16 9
	Infant -	$\frac{1}{2}$	13 - 9	$\frac{1}{2}$	39 2 3

RETURN showing the Proportion of School Fees payable into the Treasury, &c.—continued.

SCHOOL.		Proportion to Treasury.		Proportion to Teachers.	
			£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Londonderry - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$ =	20 10 1	$\frac{3}{5}$ =	102 10 6
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	20 4 1	$\frac{3}{5}$	80 16 4
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	11 15 2	$\frac{3}{5}$	58 15 10
Newry - - -	Male -	-	NH -	All	71 1 8
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	10 11 7	$\frac{3}{5}$	74 1 1
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	10 14 6	$\frac{3}{5}$	32 3 3
Newtownards - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	17 9 3	$\frac{3}{5}$	69 17 -
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	7 6 6	$\frac{3}{5}$	61 4 11
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	8 12 8	$\frac{3}{5}$	26 18 -
Sligo - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	14 14 10	$\frac{3}{5}$	73 14 2
	Female -	-	NH -	All	71 14 8
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	11 0 4	$\frac{3}{5}$	11 0 4
Trim - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	9 18 6	$\frac{3}{5}$	29 15 6
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	3 11 1	$\frac{3}{5}$	3 11 1
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	8 6 1	$\frac{3}{5}$	3 6 1
Waterford - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	18 12 8	$\frac{3}{5}$	55 18 -
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	11 6 -	$\frac{3}{5}$	33 18 -
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	13 4 -	$\frac{3}{5}$	18 4 -
Ballymoney - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	15 4 10	$\frac{3}{5}$	67 18 4
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	11 18 4	$\frac{3}{5}$	35 - -
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	16 10 -	$\frac{3}{5}$	18 10 -
Carrickfergus - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	11 14 8	$\frac{3}{5}$	68 13 4
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	18 13 3	$\frac{3}{5}$	27 6 4
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	9 19 8	$\frac{3}{5}$	49 18 4
Lurgan - - -	Male -	-	NH -	-	88 5 11
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	10 4 -	$\frac{3}{5}$	61 - -
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	7 14 8	$\frac{3}{5}$	38 13 4
Monaghan - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	13 17 2	$\frac{3}{5}$	41 11 6
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	14 - 6	$\frac{3}{5}$	43 1 6
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	17 16 11	$\frac{3}{5}$	17 16 11
Newtownstewart - - -	Male -	-	NH -	All	30 8 4
	Female -	-	NH -	All	25 17 8
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	1 19 9	$\frac{3}{5}$	13 8 3
Omagh - - -	Male -	-	NH -	All	80 2 10
	Female -	-	NH -	All	45 6 1
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	24 19 5	$\frac{3}{5}$	24 19 5
Parsonstown - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	11 2 2	$\frac{3}{5}$	33 6 6
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	9 12 3	$\frac{3}{5}$	28 18 9
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	6 7 7	$\frac{3}{5}$	19 2 9
Glenside - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	3 12 8	$\frac{3}{5}$	3 12 8
	Female -	-	NH -	All	15 9 2
Inchicore - - -	Male -	$\frac{3}{5}$	10 9 3	$\frac{3}{5}$	31 7 9
	Female -	$\frac{3}{5}$	2 12 2	$\frac{3}{5}$	18 5 2
	Infant -	$\frac{3}{5}$	8 13 5	$\frac{3}{5}$	14 8 9

REVENUE showing the Proportion of School Fees payable into the Treasury, &c.—continued.

SCHOOL.		Proportion to Treasury.			Proportion to Teachers.				
			£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Central - - -	Male, No. 1 -	$\frac{1}{10} =$	28	1	4	$\frac{1}{10} =$	252	12	-
	No. 2 -	-	-	Nil	-	All	43	5	5
	No. 3 -	$\frac{1}{2}$	7	13	6	$\frac{1}{2}$	80	13	8
	No. 4 -	-	-	Nil	-	All	42	17	4
	No. 5 -	-	-	Nil	-	All	70	1	-
Central - - -	Female, No. 1 -	-	-	Nil	-	All	304	-	6
	No. 2 -	-	-	Nil	-	All	60	14	11
	No. 3 -	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	11	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	26	4	-
	No. 4 -	-	-	Nil	-	All	48	4	4
Central - - -	Infant - -	-	-	Nil	-	All	105	17	9
West Dublin - - -	Male - -	-	-	Nil	-	All	90	12	8
	Female - -	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	11	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	31	18	2
	Infant - -	$\frac{1}{2}$	7	18	8	$\frac{1}{2}$	23	1	-

Note.—A sum of 75 l. is deducted from the amount payable into the Exchequer in aid of salaries for teachers of special subjects in the Clonsilla, Kilkenny, Waterford, and Central Model Schools.

— No. 29. —

LETTER from the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

Office of National Education,
21 April 1876.

WE are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to call the attention of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to that portion of our letter of the 14th February last, in which the Commissioners suggest a relaxation of the order, allowing in future only one-third of the school fees to the head teachers of model schools.

A reference to our letter will show their Lordships the grounds on which the Commissioners based their recommendation.

As the time has arrived for paying the school fees for the last quarter, the Commissioners shall feel obliged if their Lordships will authorise them to guarantee to each principal teacher *at present* in the service of the Commissioners, for each pupil in average attendance, the average fee for the last three years, if the third of the fees on the new scale should fail to realise an equivalent amount.

We are, &c.

(signed) *James Kelly,*
Wm. H. Newell, } Secretaries.

The Secretary, Treasury,
London.

— No. 30. —

(M. 3136—76.)

RESOLUTIONS.

At a Meeting of the Synod of Armagh and Monaghan in connection with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, held in Portadown, 25th April 1876, *inter alia*,—

THE Synod having taken into consideration the recent action of the National Board in reference to the model schools,—

Resolved,—

Resolved,—That we believe the model schools to be a vital part of the national system of education in Ireland, and that any arrangements calculated to render them less efficient must materially hinder the progress of united secular education in Ireland:

That we have witnessed with alarm and regret the attacks which have been made from time to time on the model schools, and the many changes which are calculated to hinder their usefulness, and to lead to their gradual suppression:

That we believe the recent increase in the fees payable by pupils attending these schools to be most unfair and unjustifiable, and calculated to drive away the class of children who have hitherto attended these schools:

That we earnestly request the Government and the Commissioners of Education in Ireland to take into their careful consideration the present state and prospects of this important department of the national system of education, to rescind these regulations so injurious to the success of these schools, and to carry out such arrangements as shall maintain and extend their efficiency:

That the moderator and clerk be instructed to forward copies of these resolutions to the Government and to the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

Signed, by order of the Synod,

Edw. F. Simpson,
Moderator.

Stewart Carr,
Clerk.

Note.—A similar communication was addressed to the Irish Government.

— No. 31. —

(2983—76.)

LETTER from the Rev. *Hugh Hanna* and the Rev. *W. Dobbin*, on behalf of the Presbyterian Synod of Belfast to the Secretaries to the Commissioners of National Education.

Gentlemen,

Belfast, 26 April 1876.

At a meeting of the Synod of Belfast in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and assembled in Belfast on 19th April 1876, the following resolutions and recent changes in regard to the model schools by the Commissioners of National Education were passed, and a copy ordered to be forwarded to you:—

1. That the Synod renews its expression of adherence to the principles of united non-sectarian education as opposed to the denominational system, and its resolution to maintain that principle in its integrity by every means in its power.

2. That the Synod has learned with extreme regret that the Commissioners of National Education, after having at the close of 1874 created grave dissatisfaction and materially injured some of the model schools, by issuing a circular doubling all the higher fees, did again, after the lapse of one year, adopt a series of regulations in relation to the model schools, adding a new fee of 1*l.* per quarter to the existing scale.

3. That the Synod, regarding the model schools as an essential and most valuable part of the national system, cannot but regard this imposition as a part of an unfair procedure, persistently adopted against the model schools for a number of years past, and which is likely to issue in their gradual extinction, if not actually intended to lead to that most lamentable consequence.

4. That we direct the moderator and clerk to forward a copy of these resolutions to the Commissioners and the Government, with the expression of their earnest desire that this most objectionable impost shall be removed, and that the model schools shall be protected from all changes calculated to impair their efficiency or injure their non-sectarian character.

We are, &c.
(signed) *Hugh Hanna*, Moderator,
24, Donegal Passage, Belfast.
William Dobbin, Clerk.

Note.—A similar communication was addressed to the Lord Lieutenant.

— No. 32. —

EXTRACT from Board's Minutes, dated 2nd May 1876.

LETTER from the Rev. Hugh Hanna, Moderator, submitting a series of resolutions passed at a meeting of the Synod of Belfast in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, "asent recent changes in regard to the model schools by the Commissioners of National Education."—Read.

— No. 33. —

EXTRACT from Minutes of Board, dated 16th May 1876.

LETTER from the Rev. E. F. Simpson, Moderator of the Synod of Armagh and Monaghan, in connection with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, sending resolutions on the subject of the model schools, and the recent action of the Board in reference to them.—Read.

— No. 34. —

(3421—76.)

LETTER from the Rev. J. Maxwell Rodgers, M.A., Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Derry and Omagh, to the Secretaries of the National Education Board.

Gentlemen,

Londonderry, 18 May 1876.

I HAVE been directed by the Synod of "Derry and Omagh" to transmit the accompanying resolutions (adopted unanimously at the recent meeting of the Synod in this city) to the Commissioners of National Education.

May I request that at an early day the resolutions shall be laid before the Commissioners.

I am, &c.

(signed) J. Maxwell Rodgers, M.A.,
Moderator of Synod.

To the Secretaries.

Note.—A similar communication was addressed to the Lord Lieutenant.

Enclosure in No. 34.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. "THAT this Synod continues to approve of the united non-sectarian system of education, as opposed to a denominational system, as the one, on the whole, best adapted to the circumstances of the community at large.

2. "That, as the model schools were established to afford the best examples of teaching, and also to train young persons for the office of teacher, it is essential to the success of the system that these institutions be maintained in all their primal efficiency in both departments.

3. "That the action of the Commissioners of National Education, in raising the higher fees in the model schools from 5s. to 10s. and 20s. per quarter, has reduced the number of pupils at these schools by driving away some and preventing others from seeking admission; that its tendency is to exclude entirely the children of the middle classes; that it has broken faith with contributory unions; and that it has generated a feeling of discontent and distrust—discontent by charging fees higher than, under similar circumstances, are required in England, and distrust by allowing rival conventual establishments to receive pupils, even without fee, whilst in model schools the higher rates have been raised 300 per cent.

4. "That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the Government and the Commissioners of National Education, and also to the county and city Members, with the request

request that they will use their best efforts to have the obnoxious and dangerous resolution of the Commissioners withdrawn, and have the system of elementary education placed in the hands of a responsible executive bound to conserve its great fundamental principles."

— No. 35. —

(3765—76.)

LETTER from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Commissioners of National Education.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Treasury Chambers, 8 June 1876.

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, with reference to your secretaries' letter of the 21st April last, that they approve generally of the proposal submitted by your Board, on the 14th February last, for securing to the head teachers of the model schools the average rate of fees received by them in the last three years, 1873, 1874, and 1875.

They are pleased to authorise your Board to guarantee to each principal teacher of model schools at present in your service, and so long as it is not necessary to enter into any fresh agreements with him, for each pupil in average attendance (by which expression my Lords understand the average number of pupils in attendance to be meant), the average fee of the last three years, if the third of the fees on the new scale should fail to realise an equivalent amount.

I am to add, that this principle of indemnification may be held to apply to the five assistant teachers in the Central Model School, Marlborough-street, Dublin, to whom you refer, and also to the six assistants in the district and minor model schools, who had special allowances of fees, and to the four teachers of extra subjects (drawing and music), who hitherto received special contributions from the school fees.

The Commissioners of National Education,
Ireland.

I am, &c.
(signed) R. R. W. Lingen.

— No. 36. —

(1490.)

LETTER from the Clerk of the Belfast Union to the Right Honourable Sir
M. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.

Belfast Union Workhouse,
27 January 1876.

Right Honourable Sir,

I HAVE been directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to forward to you the following copy of a resolution unanimously adopted by them at their meeting on the 25th instant, in reference to a Circular Letter issued by the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland, dated 31st December 1875, increasing the fees of pupils attending model schools, and diminishing the emoluments of the teachers of such schools, to which I have to request your particular attention.

I have, &c.
(signed) Wm. F. Boyce,
Clerk of the Union.

The Right Honourable
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
Chief Secretary for Ireland.

COPY Resolution referred to.

"THAT the attention of the Members of Parliament for the borough of Belfast, and the counties of Antrim and Down, be directed to the Circular of the Commissioners of National Education, dated the 31st December 1875, with the view of having said Circular withdrawn, as unfair to the teachers of model schools, and injurious to the best interests of the pupils attending same."

— No. 37. —

EXTRACT from LETTER from *J. L. Porter*, Moderator of the General Assembly, to the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Sir,

The Grosvenor Hotel, Dublin,
31 January 1876.

I HAVE the honour to enclose copies of two Memorials which I have forwarded to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, one on the subject of recent changes in the model schools of the National Board; the other upon intermediate education.

The whole Presbyterian Church considers both these subjects of vital importance; and the General Assembly consider it a duty to press them upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government. With this view deputations have been appointed to wait upon his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, and he has consented to receive them at the Castle on Wednesday, the 2nd of February, at 12 o'clock.

As you have always shown the deepest interest in everything that concerns the intellectual and moral elevation of the people of Ireland, I am anxious to bring these subjects under your consideration.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. L. Porter*,

Moderator of the General Assembly.

The Right Hon. Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P., &c.
Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Enclosure 1, in No. 37.

To His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Lieutenant General, and General Governor of Ireland.

May it please your Grace,

WE, the Elementary Education Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, appointed with full power to act on behalf of the church in all matters affecting the elementary education of our people, beg leave most respectfully to represent to your Grace that we have learned with extreme regret that the Commissioners of National Education, after having, at the close of 1874, created great dissatisfaction, and materially injured some of the model schools by issuing a circular doubling all the higher fees in these schools, have now again, after the lapse of but one year, adopted a series of regulations in relation to the model schools, to take effect from the 1st of January 1876, the first of which, in particular, adding a new fee of 1*l.* per quarter to the existing scale of fees for model schools, is, in our estimation, peculiarly objectionable, and calculated seriously to impair the usefulness of these excellent institutions, especially when other national schools in their immediate vicinity can admit pupils without the payment of any fee whatever.

That, as the firm and consistent supporters of the system of united education, and of the model schools as an essential and most valuable part of it, we consider this new assessment, which is exacted from the pupils of model schools alone, is indefensible in itself, and specially objectionable when regarded as part of an unfair system of treatment persistently applied to the model schools for a number of years past, so that they are never suffered to continue for any considerable time without some change, threatened or accomplished, fitted to impair their efficiency, and through them injure the entire non-sectarian system.

That under the arrangements in force during the past year the pupils of different social grades attending the model schools were required to pay 1*s.* 1*d.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.* or 10*s.* per quarter, while managers of national schools in the same towns with some of the model schools, and receiving from the Board every allowance in salary and reculture fees, were left free to exact from the pupils as small a fee as they pleased, or even to dispense with fees altogether. When it is remembered, to use the words of the late Resident Commissioner, that "the Commissioners have never refused to endow in the immediate neighbourhood of a model school a well-conducted rival school under Roman Catholic management, though well aware that it had been established for the express purpose of drawing away from the model school the Roman Catholic children attending it;" and "when so high a fee as 1*l.* per quarter is now insisted on in the model schools, while in some of the rival schools thus established and endowed, children may be admitted absolutely free, it is manifest that the new arrangement is most unfair to the model schools, and calculated, by driving away their pupils, to defeat the chief ends for which they were established, these ends being "to promote united education; to exhibit to the surrounding schools the most improved

improved methods of literary and scientific instruction, and to train young persons for the office of teacher."

That one of the arguments put forward in favour of an increase of fees in model schools is, that the amount contributed by the State is out of proportion to the amount raised from local sources. But, apart from the consideration that the model schools are State institutions, as well for the training of qualified teachers as to the models to the surrounding schools, it is to be borne in mind that this argument for increased fees is not less, but more applicable to the ordinary national schools, though in them no increase of fees is insisted on as a remedy, while the proportion of the cost of model schools paid by the State during 1872-73 was 82·3 per cent. of the whole, the proportion contributed to the salaries of the teachers of ordinary national schools was 83·3 per cent. of the whole; and while the average fee paid by each pupil in average attendance for the year was 13 s. 7½ d. in the model schools, it was only 2 s. 10½ d. in the ordinary national schools.

That the impression which exists in some quarters that pupils attending the Irish model schools pay less fees than similar classes in England, does not seem to be well founded. From the Report of the Committee of Council on English Schools for 1873-74 it appears that of 2,122,015 pupils examined for annual grants in England and Wales in the year, 3·14 per cent. paid nothing; 0·10 per cent. paid less than 1 d. per week; 20·39 per cent. paid 1 d., and less than 2 d.; 65·28 per cent. paid 2 d., and less than 4 d.; 8·43 per cent. paid 4 d., and less than 6 d.; 2·44 per cent. paid 6 d., and less than 9 d.; and 0·17 per cent. paid 9 d. That is to say, the highest fee charged at the national school in England is 9 d. per week, or 9 s. 9 d. per quarter, and this highest fee, which is less than half the amount now demanded in Irish model schools, is paid by only 0·17 per cent., or about one in 600 of the pupils in attendance; while so large a proportion as 88·9 per cent. pay rates similar to the 1 s. 1 d. and 2 s. 6 d. per quarter charged in Irish model schools, only 11·1 per cent. paying rates ranging from 4 d. to 9 d. per week. The comparison between Irish model schools and good English national schools, in respect of the amount of fees charged to the pupils, is certainly not an unfair one to the latter, because, apart from the consideration of the greater wealth of England, and the high rate of wages earned by the English industrial classes, in one aspect of them, and the only aspect with which parents paying school fees are concerned, the model schools are just the same as ordinary national schools of the best type, with the same branches taught, and the same quality of teachers as in first-class national schools, whether in England or Ireland. But whenever the cost of the model schools is considered, their essential character as training institutions should be taken into account, and allowance made for the number of qualified teachers they furnish for the service from year to year. Viewed as mere day schools they may be considered expensive, but, in addition, they are actually doing the work of training colleges.

That the statement frequently put forward by the opponents of the model schools, that they are attended chiefly by the children of parents occupying a good position in society, is inaccurate and misleading. It is but a small proportion of the pupils that are drawn from the well-to-do-classes, and it is well known that many are ranked as belonging to the middle classes in this country have not better incomes than the higher mechanics and artisans have in England. Besides the mixing together of the different social grades to the slight extent to which it in some places exists, ought not, in our opinion, to be discouraged any more in the model schools than in good ordinary national schools, where it similarly takes place; yet the undoubted result of enforcing a 1 l. fee on all model school pupils of a certain social grade will be to drive them from the schools, for it is unreasonable to expect that one man would pay 20 s. for precisely the same article that costs another 1 s., especially when the man who is asked to pay the 20 s., makes a considerable sacrifice socially, which is correspondingly to the gain of the other. And while the model schools will thus be seriously injured by the diminution of the number of their pupils, financially the plan will not realise the proposed end, just as, notwithstanding the doubling of the higher rates 12 months ago, the total amount of fees collected in several schools has been less than in previous years.

That while we consider this very exceptional raising of fees in the model schools indefensible in itself and inconsistent with an honest desire to maintain those schools in efficiency as part of the mixed system, we cannot but regard the mode of procedure adopted by the Commissioners for carrying it into effect as extremely objectionable, and calculated to do the model schools the greatest possible injury. It was immediately calculated to do the model schools the greatest possible injury. It was immediately before the Christmas vacation, when the notices for renewal of fees at the former rates had already, in many cases, been sent out, that the Circular of December 1874 was suddenly issued, doubling the higher fees from the 1st of January 1875; and it was just in the middle of the Christmas vacation, after probably all the notices for renewal of fees at the former rates had been furnished, that the present circular directing the new assessment of 1 l. per quarter was issued; and this regulation was ordered to "come into operation from the 1st January 1876." The non-sectarian system, as such, suffers when the model schools are injured, and this is the reason why they are objects of special hostility on the part of the enemies of mixed education. They are singled out for incessant attacks, just because they furnish the best exemplification of what schools should be under a mixed non-sectarian system; and because it is believed that if mixed education could be driven from its asylum in these strongholds, it would not long be maintained in the ordinary schools of the country. In these circumstances it is the more deeply to be regretted that the system should suffer at the hands of the Commissioners themselves, and that their

line of procedure should so frequently take a direction unfavourable to the stability and efficiency of their own model schools.

May it please your Grace to represent these as our views to Her Majesty's Government, with the prayer that the scale of fees in model schools may be allowed to remain as it was previous to 1875, and that these excellent institutions may be left free from all changes that would drive away their pupils, and so tend to introduce a denominational system; and we will ever pray, &c.

(signed) *J. L. Porter, D.D., LL.D.,*
Moderator of the General Assembly.

Francis Pettigrew,
Convener of the Elementary Education Committee.

Note.—A similar memorial was forwarded to Right Hon. B. Disraeli, M.P., First Lord of the Treasury.

Enclosure 2, in No. 37.

To His Excellency the Duke of Abercorn, Lieutenant General, and General Governor of Ireland, K.G., &c., &c.

May it please your Excellency,

As the Committee appointed by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Ireland to act on behalf of that body in the interests of primary and collegiate education in this country, when anything in the proceedings of the Legislature, or the conduct of the Executive might seem to render such action necessary, we respectfully solicit the attention of your Grace to certain measures recently adopted by the Commissioners of National Education with regard to district model schools.

In December 1874 the Commissioners directed that the scale of fees to be paid by pupils attending these schools should thenceforth range from 1s. to 10s. per quarter, instead of from 1s. to 5s., which was the scale adopted when the model schools were first established; and although it was found that that order could not be enforced, because the proposed charges were generally regarded as excessive, the Commissioners have recently issued another order directing that in future the scale of fees in the model school shall range from 1s. to 20s. per quarter, and, as we have been informed, it has been intimated to the teachers that unless they enforce the new scale of fees, the result payments which they may earn will be withheld from them, and also that in future they are to receive only one-third instead of one-half of the school fees contributed by the children.

We strongly object to these measures of the Commissioners as inconsistent with the terms of the Charter under which they hold office as oppressive; to that class of the community from which the pupils of these schools are generally obtained; as unfair to the ratepayers, who have recently been taxed for the increase of the teachers' salaries; as unjust to the teachers, and in violation of the agreement on which they were appointed; as calculated still further to diminish the already insufficient supply of properly trained and qualified teachers, and ultimately to destroy the model schools, which we have always regarded as the most valuable part of the national system of education.

We cannot but regard the very frequent changes in the administration of the system which have been introduced of late years as eminently calculated to destroy public confidence, and seriously to injure the cause of national education in Ireland.

We therefore most respectfully but earnestly solicit your Grace to interpose the authority vested in you by Her Majesty, to prevent the said orders of the Commissioners being carried into effect until the subject shall have received the consideration of Parliament.

And we shall ever pray.

Signed, by order, and on behalf of the said Committee,

James Tobias, Wesleyan Methodist Minister,
Secretary.

Mount Michael, Sandymount, Dublin,
12 February 1876.

— No. 38. —

(7939.)

LETTER from the Moderator of the General Assembly to the Right Honourable
B. Disraeli, M.P.

Assembly's College, Belfast,
27 March 1876.

Sir,

WHEN I had the honour of an interview on the 28th of February, I placed before you the great disadvantages under which the model schools in Ireland are placed, owing to the increase of fees recently made by the Board of Commissioners at the suggestion, it is said, of the Lords of the Treasury. You were then pleased to state, in reply, that you were not previously aware of the unfair treatment which the model schools had received, but that it would have the careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

As yet, so far as I can learn, nothing has been done to remedy the evil complained of. The model schools, to which we must mainly look for a supply of trained teachers, are still suffering; some of the best pupils are being taken from them. Convent and other rival denominational schools, which charge no fees, and which are yet subsidised by the National Board, are drawing away the pupils. The aggregate amount of fees, instead of being increased, is, I am informed, less than before; while much dissatisfaction is being created among the friends of united education, especially in Ulster.

Under these circumstances, I trust I may venture again to call your attention to this important subject, and to request, which I do very respectfully, that you will be so good as to inform me whether Her Majesty's Government have as yet come to any resolution upon it.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. L. Porter,
Moderator of the General Assembly.

The Right Hon. B. Disraeli, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

IRISH MODEL SCHOOLS.

COPIES of Correspondence between the Treasury and the National Education Commissioners of Ireland in the Years 1874, 1875, and 1876, relative to the Increase of the Fees payable by Pupils in the IRISH MODEL SCHOOLS, together with the MINUTES and RESOLUTIONS of the EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS thereon; and, of MEMORIALS and other COMMUNICATIONS, &c.

(*Mr. Charles Lewis.*)

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